

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2641

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJ: STUDENTS ATTACK JLP CAMPAIGN IN MICHOACAN

1. STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN NICOLAS IN MORELIA, MICHOACAN PELTED THE JLP CAMPAIGN WITH ROCKS, OVERTURNED SEVERAL BUSES AND CARS BELONGING TO THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, BURNED PRI PROPAGANDA AND GENERALLY DISRUPTED CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES IN THAT CITY ON JAN. 26. PRESS REPORTS SAY POLICE FORCES MADE NO EFFORT TO STOP THE VANDALISM (PROBABLY OUT OF A DESIRE NOT TO PROVOKE FURTHER VIOLENCE).

2. COMMENT: THIS VIOLENCE IS THE FIRST THE JLP CAMPAIGN HAS ENCOUNTERED. EARLIER, IN ZACATECAS AND IN NAYARIT, HOSTILE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED AND CHANTED SLOGANS AT THE SITE OF CAMPAIGN RALLIES, BUT DID NOT PHYSICALLY ASSAULT THE PRI ORGANIZATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE HOSTILITY SHOWN IN MORELIA, LIKE THAT IN ZACATECAS AND NAYARIT, IS DIRECTED MORE AGAINST THE PRI AND POLITICAL SYSTEM IN GENERAL THAN AGAINST JLP HIMSELF, WHO IS GENERALLY PRESENTING A SIMPATICO IMAGE. NEXT STATE ON THIS CAMPAIGN TRIP IS GUERRERO, WHERE STUDENT DISCONTENT HAS BEEN FESTERING FOR A YEAR AT THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF GUERRERO AT CHILPANCINGO.

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3. IN AN UNRELATED INCIDENT ON JAN 25, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FROM THE "FREE CENTER OF ARTISTIC AND THEATRICAL EXPERIMENTATION" (CLETA) DISRUPTED A PROGRAM OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT IN THE TLATELOLCO PLAZA WHERE THE PRINCIPAL STUDENT RIOTS OCCURRED IN OCTOBER 1968. POLICE DISPERSED THE GROUP FORCEFULLY AND MADE ABOUT A DOZEN ARRESTS. THE CLETA STUDENTS HAD SIGNS AND BANNERS REFERRING TO THE 1968 RIOTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE STUDENTS WERE SUPPORTED BY SOME RESIDENTS OF A MEXICO CITY SHANTY-TOWN WHICH BURNED TO THE GROUND THE PREVIOUS NIGHT. GOM OFFICIALS WERE QUICK TO ATTRIBUTE THE FIRE TO ACCIDENTAL CAUSES AMIDST ALLEGATIONS AND SOME SUBTLE PRESS SPECULATION THAT ARSON WAS INVOLVED IN AN EFFORT TO MOVE CAMPESINO SQUATTERS OFF THE LAND (WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER LAND IS PUBLIC OR PRIVATE). FEDERAL REGENT OCTAVIO SENTIES ANGRILY DENIED SUGGESTIONS THAT FEDERAL DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAD SOMEHOW CAUSED THE FIRE.
THOMPSON

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